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actually inverted, in order to suit this structure of the eye. The humours of the eyes of birds are chemically of the same nature as those of quadrupeds.

It is also observed, that the crystalline in all animals is not throughout of the same density; the result of some experiments made on this subject being that its density increases from the circumference to the centre, as the square roots of the quantities pared away from the external part.

Lastly, it is suggested, that since we know that albumen can be coagulated by various methods, it is not unlikely that this may happen likewise in the human eye, and be the cause of disorder known by the name of Cataract. An attention to this complaint, especially in gouty persons, is strongly recommended; as some important conclusions, it is thought, may be drawn as to the influence of phosphoric acid in causing that disorder, by the common effect of acids in coagulating albumen.

An Account of some Stones said to have fallen on the Earth in France; and of a Lump of native Iron, said to have fallen in India. By the Right Hon. Charles Greville, F.R.S. Read January 27, 1803. [Phil. Trans. 1803, p. 200.]

Mr. Greville, conceiving that the experiments and observations made by Mr. Howard on certain metalline substances said to have fallen on the earth, and the accurate descriptions which Count de Bournon has given of these substances, have established the fact that a number of stones, asserted to have fallen under similar circumstances, have precisely the same character, is here pleased to communicate to the Society three more instances of such singular productions of nature, which have of late been noticed in France.

The first is a specimen broken from a stone of about 15 inches diameter, preserved in the Museum of Bourdeaux, and which is said to have fallen near Roqueford, in the Landes, on the 20th of August, 1789, during the explosion of a meteor. It broke through the roof of a cottage, and killed a herdsman and some cattle.

The second is part of a stone preserved in the collection of Mons. St. Amand, which was one of the numbers that fell in the year 1790, in three different parishes in Armagnac, some of which weighed no less than 25 pounds. The fact of this shower of stones was at the time verified by the Mayor of Armile, and is published in the *Journal des Sciences Utiles de Montpellier* for that year. For the third specimen Mr. Greville is indebted to the Marquis de Drée. It is a fragment broken from a stone of 22 pounds weight, which fell near Villefranche, in Burgundy, the 12th of March, 1798. This, like the former ones, was accompanied by a meteor; and all three have precisely the same character, texture, and appearance.

We are indebted to Mr. Greville for a new evidence, and he says, the only one he has yet met with, that seems to ascertain the origin of native iron, which, from analysis, had been suspected to have a

common origin with the stones fallen on the earth. This he obtained from Colonel Kirkpatrick, and it consists of a translation from the Persian, made by the Colonel, of a passage in the Memoirs of the Emperor Jehangire, written by himself. The substance of this extract is as follows: In the first year of this Emperor's reign (A. 1030 of the Hegira) there arose one morning in a village, about 100 miles East of Lahore, such a tremendous noise as had near deprived the inhabitants of their sense of hearing. During this noise, a luminous body was observed to fall from above on the earth, suggesting to the beholders the idea that the firmament was pouring fire. In a short time the noise having subsided, and the inhabitants having recovered from their alarm, a messenger was dispatched by them to the Aumil, or fiscal superintendant of the district, to apprise him of the event. This magistrate immediately repaired to the spot, and there perceived that the earth, to an extent of about ten or twelve yards in diameter, was burnt to such a degree that not a blade of grass nor the least trace of verdure remained; nor had the heat, which had been communicated to it, as yet subsided.

The Aumil hereupon caused the aforesaid space of ground to be dug up. The deeper they went the greater was the heat found to be. At length a lump of iron made its appearance, the heat of which was so great that one might have supposed it to have been taken from a furnace. After some time it became cold, when the Aumil conveyed it to his own habitation, from whence he dispatched it to court.

Here (the Emperor says) I had it weighed in my presence, and found its weight to fall little short of 80 ounces. I committed it to a skilful artist, with orders to make it into a sabre, a knife, and a dagger; but the workman soon reported to me that the substance would not bear the hammer, but shivered into pieces when struck. Upon this I ordered it to be mixed with other iron. Accordingly three parts of this *iron of lightning*, as we called it, were mixed with one part of common iron; and from this mixture were made two sabres, one knife, and one dagger. By the addition of the common iron, the new substance acquired a fine temper, the blades fabricated from it proving as elastic as the most perfect that can be made in our country. I had them tried in my presence, and found that they cut admirably. One of the sabres I called *Katai*, or the Cutter, and the other *Busk-serisht*, or the Lightning-natured.

In a tetrastich presented to the Emperor on this occasion, it is asserted that in his time fell raw iron from lightning. Colonel Kirkpatrick certifies the genuineness of the manuscript, and the fidelity of the translation; and Mr. Greville adds, that he considers this as an authentic fact, the Emperor Jehangire not being a prince on whom his courtiers would idly venture to impose, or to whom an Aumil of a district would have dared to produce a substance pretending it to be iron, which on trial should be found to differ from manufactured iron.